

HB 1680 -- SHOW-ME HEROES PROGRAM

This bill changes the name of the Heroes at Home Program to the Show-Me Heroes Program and adds spouses of active duty United States military personnel to those individuals to whom the program can provide assistance in addressing immediate needs and employment in an attempt to keep the family from falling into poverty while the primary income earner is on active duty and for one year following discharge. Under the program, recently separated United States military personnel may also be provided assistance with finding work in specified situations.

Currently, the Department of Economic Development has the option of entering into a contract with qualified providers through local workforce investment boards to operate the program. The bill repeals this option and requires the department to operate the program through existing programs. Services under the program may include financial assistance to families facing financial crisis from overdue bills regardless of cause. Currently, the financial crisis has to be due to overdue bills because of reduced income after the deployment of a spouse.

The department must establish rules to implement these provisions.